LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

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1. (Previously Presented) A bottom seal at the lower end of a step screen provided with a grating and adapted to convey solid particles and objects positioned in flowing water, the grating comprising alternately fixed and movable lamellar rods with intermediate gaps to allow the water to pass through the grating and with steps at their longitudinal edges upstream, the movable lamellar rods being movable in a closed motion path in their plane with an upwards component which is greater than the height of the steps, for step by step conveyance of the solid particles and the objects from the water and along the fixed lamellar rods to an outlet, the bottom seal extending substantially across the entire width of the grating to seal the ducts that arise between the fixed lamellar rods at their lowermost step as the movable lamellar rods move upwards between the fixed lamellar rods, the bottom seal comprising:

at least one elongate bottom cover, connected at a longitudinal edge upstream to the step screen and guided at a longitudinal edge downstream on guides on the lowermost steps of the movable lamellar rods to follow the motion the rods and, in the motion, being pivotable up and down close to and past the edges upstream on the lowermost steps of the fixed lamellar rods.

2. (Previously Presented) A bottom seal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bottom cover, to be pivotal, is at least partly made of a flexible material.

3. (Previously Presented) A bottom seal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bottom cover is pivotally connected to the step screen via a bottom step, which extends substantially across the entire width of the grating upstream of the bottom cover.

4. (Previously Presented) A bottom seal as claimed in claim 3, wherein the bottom cover is pivotally connected to the bottom step via at least one hinge.

5. (Previously Presented) A bottom seal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the guides on the lowermost steps of the movable lamellar rods project from the same upstream towards the bottom cover and guide the bottom cover from below.

6. (Previously Presented) A bottom seal as claimed in claim 5, wherein the longitudinal edge of the bottom cover downstream abuts slidingly against the guides of the movable lamellar rods.

7. (Previously Presented) A bottom seal as claimed in claim 5, wherein the guides of the movable lamellar rods are substantially rectilinear.

8. (Previously Presented) A bottom seal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the edges upstream on the lowermost steps of the fixed lamellar rods are curved with a radius, only slightly greater than the pivoting radius of the bottom cover, the radius having substantially the same center as the pivoting radius of the bottom cover to

form a small, but substantially tight motion gap between the edges of the fixed lamellar rods upstream and the longitudinal edge of the bottom cover downstream.

9. (Previously Presented) A bottom seal as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bottom cover, to ensure its guiding on the guides of the movable lamellar rods during the motion thereof, is yieldably loaded towards the guides.

10. (Previously Presented) A bottom seal as claimed in claim 9, wherein the yieldable load is provided by at least one spring.

11. (Previously Presented) A bottom seal as claimed in claim 9, wherein the yieldable load is provided by at least one tension spring fixed between the bottom step and the bottom cover.

12. (Previously Presented) A bottom seal as claimed in claim 2, wherein the guides on the lowermost steps of the movable lamellar rods project from the same upstream towards the bottom cover and guide the bottom cover from below.

13. (Previously Presented) A bottom seal as claimed in claim 3, wherein the guides on the lowermost steps of the movable lamellar rods project from the same upstream towards the bottom cover and guide the bottom cover from below.

14. (Previously Presented) A bottom seal as claimed in claim 4, wherein the guides on the lowermost steps of the movable lamellar rods project from the same upstream towards the bottom cover and guide the bottom cover from below.

15. (Previously Presented) A bottom seal as claimed in claim 6, wherein the guides of the movable lamellar rods are substantially rectilinear.

16. (Previously Presented) A bottom seal as claimed in claim 2, wherein the edges upstream on the lowermost steps of the fixed lamellar rods are curved with a radius, only slightly greater than the pivoting radius of the bottom cover, the radius having substantially the same center as the pivoting radius of the bottom cover to form a small, but substantially tight motion gap between the edges of the fixed lamellar rods upstream and the longitudinal edge of the bottom cover downstream.

17. (Previously Presented) A bottom seal as claimed in claim 2, wherein the bottom cover, to ensure its guiding on the guides of the movable lamellar rods during the motion thereof, is yieldably loaded towards the guides.

18. (Previously Presented) A bottom seal as claimed in claim 3, wherein the edges upstream on the lowermost steps of the fixed lamellar rods are curved with a radius, only slightly greater than the pivoting radius of the bottom cover, the radius having substantially the same center as the pivoting radius of the bottom cover to form a small, but substantially tight motion gap between the edges of the fixed lamellar rods upstream and the longitudinal edge of the bottom cover downstream.

19. (Previously Presented) A bottom seal as claimed in claim 3, wherein the bottom cover, to ensure its guiding on the guides of the movable lamellar rods during the motion thereof, is yieldably loaded towards the guides.